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SUBJECT: Withdrawal of MSHA Approval for Sandvik Model ABM20 Remote Control System (Intrinsically Safe Evaluation number IA12782)

**Scope**

Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) enforcement personnel, coal and metal and nonmetal mine operators, miners' representatives, and repair facilities.

**Purpose**

This Program Information Bulletin (PIB) informs the mining industry of the withdrawal of MSHA approval for the Sandvik Model ABM20 remote control system (Intrinsically Safe Evaluation number IA12782). This withdrawal of approval means that this product is no longer considered approved by MSHA. Mine operators should take action to replace any of these products that may currently be in use with a MSHA approved remote control system.

**Information**

Mine operators should promptly review their inventories of mining equipment to determine if any Sandvik (previously Voest-Alpine) Models ABM20 and ABM14 Continuous Bolter Miners utilize the Model ABM20 remote control system. The ABM20 Continuous Bolter Miner (Approval number 2G-3964A) is only approved for use with the Model ABM20 remote control system. Since the Model ABM20 remote control system is no longer approved, mine operators must obtain field approvals to use other remote control systems with their ABM20 Continuous Bolter Miners, or the machines must be removed from areas of the mine where permissible equipment is required. The ABM14 Continuous Bolter Miner (Approval number 2G-4022A) is in compliance when used with the Model ABM14 remote control system.

Replacements for Model ABM20 remote control systems are not available from Sandvik. Mine operators may request a field modification approval to use a different approved remote control system, or may consult with their mining machine approval

holder for other approved options. Mine operators that encounter difficulty in replacing the Sandvik Model ABM20 remote control system should contact one of the MSHA contact persons listed below to request assistance.

### **Background**

Sandvik representatives have been working with MSHA Technical Support specialists to ensure that the correct version of Rexroth solenoid Model GE-35-2-A (Intrinsically Safe Evaluation number IA21884), is used on their Model ABM14 and ABM20 remote control systems. The Model ABM14 remote control system has been updated and is in compliance with its approval specifications (Intrinsically Safe Evaluation number IA17288).

Sandvik has chosen not to update the approval documentation for the Model ABM20 remote control system since none of these devices are purportedly used in the United States. Therefore, they have requested that the approval for the Model ABM20 remote control system (Intrinsically Safe Evaluation number IA12782) be revoked.

### **Authority**

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended, 30 U.S.C. § 801 et seq, and 30 C.F.R. Part 18-Electric Motor-Driven Mine Equipment and Accessories

### **Internet Availability**

This PIB may be viewed on the Internet by accessing MSHA's Home Page at <http://www.msha.gov> and then looking at the section titled "MSHA's Major Laws, Regulations and Policies" and selecting "Program Information Bulletins" under "Compliance Information (PIBs, PILs, the PPM, and More)."

### **Issuing Office and Contact Person**

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